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PAKISTAN'S INFLUENTIAL FORMER ISI CHIEF ARRESTED BY MILITARY

The Pak Army on Monday said it arrested former Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed over a housing scheme scandal

COURT MARTIAL PROCEEDINGS INITIATED

The Pakistan Army said court martial proceedings have been initiated against Hameed. Hameed is accused of extorting Rs 4 crore from the management of the Top City housing scheme. The arrest comes months after the army, on orders of the Supreme Court, set up a panel headed by a major general to investigate the allegations made against Hameed

HAMEED WAS PICKED BY IMRAN TO HEAD ISI

- Hameed was appointed as the head of Pakistan intelligence in 2019 by Imran Khan who had sacked Lt Gen Asim Munir from the post
- The army replaced Hameed in 2021 overlooking Imran's objections. Imran's relations with the military soured over this and after his government fell in April 2022, Munir was made the Pak Army chief

Nov 2022

WHEN FAIZ HAMEED TOOK PREMATURE RETIREMENT FROM PAKISTAN ARMY

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Junior doctors protest against the rape and murder of a PG trainee doctor, in Kolkata on Monday | PTI

DIDI BUYS TIME ON DOC RAPE-MURDER PROBE

Resident doctors across India on indefinite protest, seeking justice

SULAGNA SENGUPTA @ Kolkata

AMID national outrage over the rape and murder of a junior doctor at a government hospital in Kolkata three days ago, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday sought to buy time after calls for a CBI probe reached a crescendo.

Resident doctors of government hospitals across the country went on an indefinite strike demanding justice for the victim, paralysing elective services, including OPDs and non-emergency surgeries. In Kolkata, civil society members, including theatre personalities and poets, hit the streets.

The body of the postgraduate trainee was found at the seminar hall in her place of work, the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on Friday morning. A civic volunteer was arrested on Saturday in connection with the case.

After visiting the victim's home, Mamata assured she would send the case to the CBI if the local police failed to solve it by this Sunday. "The suspicion of the girl's parents on the role of insiders needs to be probed. If it is not cracked by Sunday, the case will be handed over to the CBI," she said.

However, protesters criticised Mamata's attempt to delay the CBI probe. They also demanded a judicial inquiry, better security on the campus, capital punishment for the culprits, and adequate compensation for the victim's family.

Dr Sandip Ghosh, principal of the RG Kar Medical College resigned on Monday taking moral responsibility for the horrific incident.

But hours later the state government transferred him to the Calcutta National Medical College and Hospital, triggering another round of uproar from the protesters and the Opposition.

An orthopedic by training, Dr Ghosh was promoted as RG Kar principal in mid-2021. He was transferred out of the institution twice, but reinstated shortly thereafter, indicating his networking skills.

SUCCESS RATE OF CBI LOW: MAMATA

"I want the police to arrest the culprits as soon as possible. If they can't solve it by Sunday, we will hand it over to the CBI... I don't have any issue with the central probe agency. But the CBI's success rate is low," Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said

TB Dam crest gate to be ready by weekend?

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @ Koppal/Hosapete

A team of experts has come up with two plans to fix the broken Crest Gate No 19 of the Tungabhadra Dam. The plans have been placed before the state government and the repair work is expected to be completed by this weekend.

N Kannaiah Naidu, an expert in hydro-mechanical engineering (dams), and other members of the team are gearing up to fix the broken crest gate. Telangana and Andhra Pradesh governments have deputed two experts to the dam site to keep them abreast of the situation there.

According to Naidu's Plan A, the team will wait till water storage in the dam comes down to 60 tmcft to take up repair work. Under Plan B, the team will install half of the gate after diverting water from the spot using heavy metal sheets, a senior member of the team said.

"The 45-tonne crest gate washed away in the river after its chain link snapped. Now, a private company is building a new gate at Hosapete and it is expected to be ready by Tuesday evening. But as per Plan A, we have to wait for four more days when water storage in the dam reaches 60 tmcft. More than 10 tmcft of water flowed from the dam after the gate gave way on Sunday morning," he said.

ORK Reddy, executive officer of the TB Dam Board, said efforts are on to complete the repair work at the earliest. Water is being released from all the crest gates of the dam. The state government and the experts' team are doing their best to avoid heavy outflow from the dam, he added.

REPORTS: P4

A view of Crest Gate No 19 of TB Dam, which gave way on Sunday morning | EXPRESS

CM TO VISIT DAM TODAY

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will visit the TB dam to get first-hand information and hold meetings with officials supervising the repair work on Tuesday. He said the government will constitute a team of experts that would visit all the dams to assess safety aspects and give a report within a month. He said they can save around 60 tmcft of water and are making all efforts.

Contentious draft broadcast bill out

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

THE Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Monday said it is working on a fresh draft of the Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, saying the revised version would be published after consultations. Stakeholders can provide additional feedback till October 15, it added.

In a statement on the micro-blogging site X, the ministry said: "The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting is working on a Draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill. The draft Bill was placed in public domain on November 10, 2023 along with the explanatory notes for comments of the stakeholders and the general public. In response, multiple recommendations/ comments/ suggestions were received including from various Associations. Ministry is holding a series of consultations with the stakeholders on the draft bill."

The statement came amid reports that the contentious draft was on its way out.

The draft was panned for its controversial provisions to label influential digital media creators, such as independent journalists sharing their opinion on YouTube or Instagram, and even 'thought leaders' with mass following on LinkedIn, as either OTT broadcasters or as digital news broadcasters. These 'digital broadcasters' were required to set up a content evaluation committee comprising eminent individuals as members to certify the programmes before they are aired. They were also supposed to nominate 'grievance redressal officers' to deal with the complaints about the content.

The original version, which was made public in November 2023, had a self regulation mechanism to keep a check on vulgar content.

It had also proposed to regulate the entire broadcasting sector including over-the-top, direct-to-home, and digital platforms.

> Ministry is holding consultations with the stakeholders on the draft bill. Further additional time is being provided to solicit comments till 15th October 2024
>
> I&B ministry

EXPRESS READ

Temples atop Chamundi Hills ours, says Pramoda

Mysuru: Pramoda Devi Wadiyar of the erstwhile royal family of Mysore on Monday termed the Shree Chamundeshwari Kshetra Development Authority Act, 2024, as unconstitutional. She said Shree Chamundeshwari Temple and other temples atop the Chamundi Hills are the private properties of the family | P4

7 dead, 26 injured in Bihar temple stampede

Jehanabad (Bihar): At least seven people, including six women, were killed and 26 others injured in a stampede at Baba Siddheshwar Nath Temple in Jehanabad district, Bihar, on Monday. District Magistrate Alankrita Pandey indicated that a dispute among kanwariyas might have led to the stampede. An inquiry has been ordered, officials said | P10

CEIR portal helps B'luru cops block 16,219 SIMs

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

WITH the IT City recording the highest number of cybercrime cases, Bengaluru City Police are now using the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal to block SIM cards and track mobile phones used in fraudulent activities.

In all, 16,219 SIM cards and 15,000 mobile phones have been blocked in the past 10 months.

The CEIR portal is a service module offered by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to trace lost or stolen phones. Using this portal, users can immediately block their lost mobile phones by providing their IMEI numbers. The portal also helps in tracing those using the blocked phones.

The portal has become a critical tool in the cybercrime prevention strategy of the police. Through the portal, cyber cops can effectively render the devices inoperable.

Additional Commissioner of Police (East) Raman Gupta said with fraudsters using mobile phone technology to cheat people, cyber police have taken a proactive approach to combat such crimes by using the portal. They take up complaints registered through the '1930' helpline number and those filed at cyber crime police stations in the city.

"We identify phone numbers that are repeatedly used to commit cyber crimes and block their SIM cards and devices," he said. CONTINUED ON: P5

IIT-M TOPS NIRF RANKINGS FOR 6th STRAIGHT YEAR

TOP 10 INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA AS PER THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE RANKING FRAMEWORK, 2024

Reports: P2, 9

1. Indian Institute of Technology Madras
2. Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru
3. Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
4. Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
5. Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
6. Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
7. All India Institute of Medical Sciences Delhi
8. Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee
9. Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati
10. Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi

Hasina's stay in India won't hurt ties, says B'desh govt

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

SHEIKH Hasina's stay in New Delhi will not negatively affect the relations between India and Bangladesh, Mohamad Touhid Hossain, foreign secretary in the Bangladesh interim government said on Monday.

"There will be no impact on the bilateral relationship between the two countries because of one individual's stay in a country," he said in his first briefing. "Bilateral relations are very big thing and involve mutual interests. Both sides have their interests. India has its interests, and Bangladesh has its interests," he added. Hasina resigned as Bangladesh's prime minister on August 5 and fled to India amid protests against her government. P9, 12

Retail inflation at five-year low

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

BASE effect and subdued food & beverage prices brought down retail inflation to a five-year low of 3.54% in July. According to government data released on Monday, food & beverage prices fell to 5.4% from a six-month high of 9.4% in June. The dip in retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, was also influenced by base effects from July 2023, when the rate was at 7.4% and the food index had risen by 11.5%.

Vegetable prices in July rose 6.83% year-on-year compared to 30% in June. On a month-on-month basis, however, the prices shot up 14.2%. Cereal prices increased by 8.14%, a slight decrease from the 8.75% rise recorded in June. The prices of oils and fats saw a decline of 1.17%, an improvement from the 2.68% drop in the previous month. Inflation for pulses rose to 14.77% year-over-year, down from a 16.07% increase in June.

In the non-food category, clothing and footwear prices rose 2.67%, while housing inflation stood at 2.68% compared to the year before. In July, urban inflation fell below 3%, down from 4.4% in June. Meanwhile, rural inflation came in at 4.1%, against 5.7% in the previous month. Food inflation was also more pronounced in rural areas, reaching 5.9% compared to 4.6% in urban regions.

52mm rain brings Bengaluru to its knees

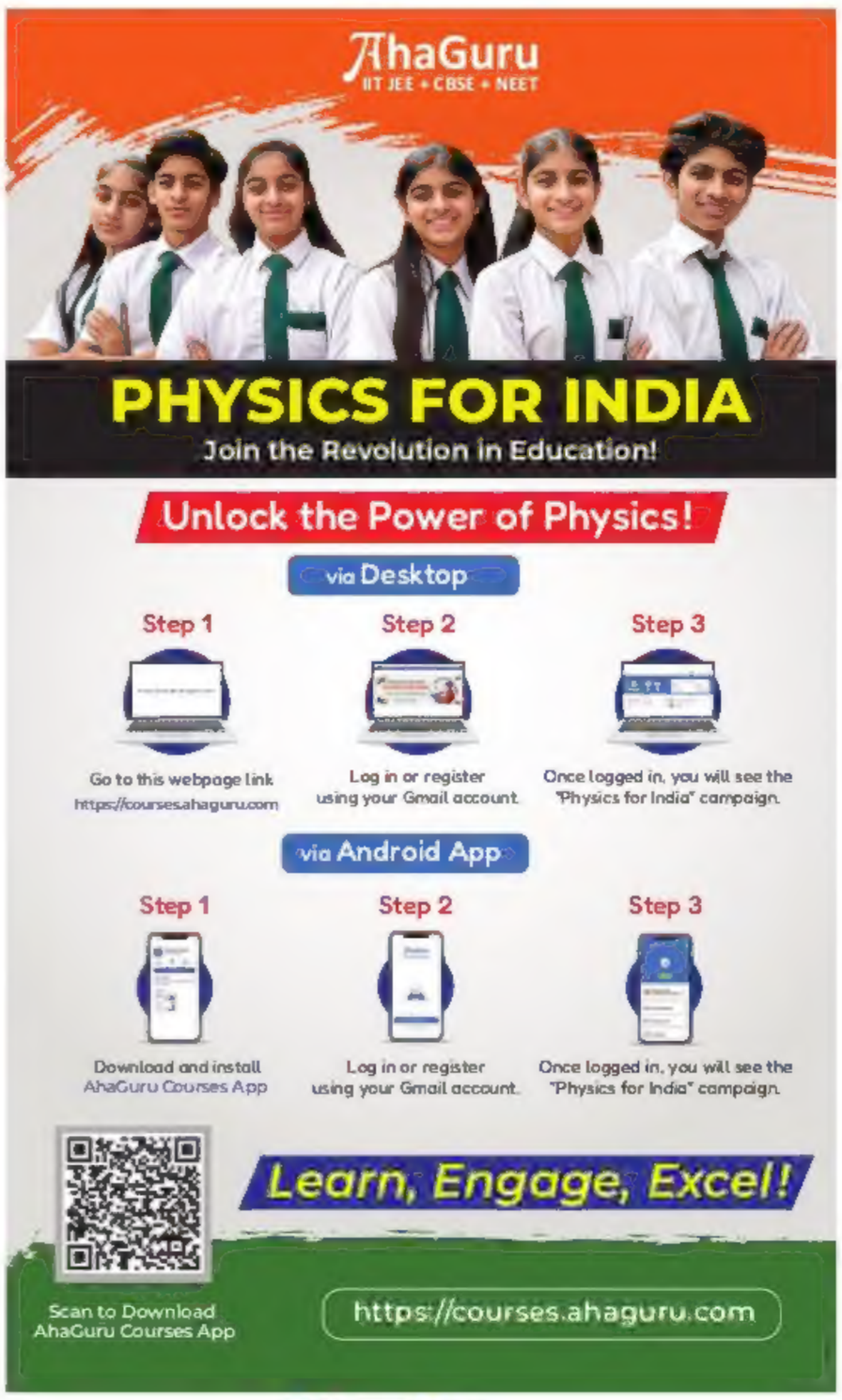
MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

HEAVY rain lashed the city early Monday morning flooding many roads and low-lying areas. Six people, including four schoolchildren, were injured when a tree fell on them at Jaibharath Nagar.

The city received 53 mm of rain. Rainwater entered several houses at Muniswamappa Layout in Amruthahalli, AC Colony in Pulikeshinagar, Daddy's Layout at Kammasandra and other low-lying areas, causing inconvenience to people. Basements of several apartment complexes were also flooded.

Office-goers and students had a harrowing time because of traffic jams at Varthur, Bellandur, Kadubeesanahalli, Silk Board Junction. Vegetables unloaded at KR Market and Dasanapura APMC Market were washed away. Business was affected at Chickpet, Avenue Road and parts of the central business district. P2

Motorists navigate a flooded underpass near Jayadeva Hospital on Monday morning | EXPRESS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